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Downtown Environmental Health Service Center
Water Recreation Program
2124 Fourth Avenue, 4th Floor
Seattle, WA 98121



Food and Facilities Who's Who

Section Manager, Food, Facilities and Living Environment
Rick Miklich 206-296-4632

Senior Technical Advisor, Water Recreation Program
Eileen Hennessy 206 296-4632

Geographical area: North and East King County
Northshore District
10808 NE 145th St.,
Bothell, WA 98011
206-296-9791

Supervisor, Dan Moran
Water Recreation Plan Reviewer, Phil Wyman

Geographical area: Seattle
Downtown District Office
2124 4th Ave, 4th Floor
Seattle WA 98121
206-296-4632
Supervisor, Todd Yerkes
Water Recreation Plan Reviewer, Patricia Ryan

Geographical area: South County and Vashon Island
Alder Square District
1404 Central Ave. S., Suite 101
Kent, WA 98032
206-296-4708
Supervisor, Gale Yuen
Water Recreation Plan Reviewer, Patrick Murphy

Reporting Serious Illness or Injury

Owners must report all serious injuries that required emergency aid from "911" and/or when the person needed immediate medical treatment at a clinic or emergency room and/or is admitted to a hospital. Complete the Injury Report Form and return it within 48 hours of the incident to:

Public Health – Seattle & King County
Environmental Health Division
2124 4th Avenue, 4th Floor
Seattle, Washington 98121

Forms, plan review and general information are available at District Offices and on the Public Health-Seattle & King County Water Recreation Web Site. <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pools>



Washington State's Water Recreation Facilities regulations have changed!

Washington has revised the Water Recreation Facilities Regulations following years of input from the industry, owners, consumers and public health agencies. These changes were approved by the State Board of Health, effective October 31, 2004.

Significant safety features have been added for existing pools including protections at single main drain pools and requiring all barriers to conform with new construction requirements.

Construction changes for barriers and single main drains will have a three year compliance schedule to conform with the new regulations, allowing the flexibility to work projects into your routine maintenance plans. Modifications must be complete by June 1, 2008.

Immediate changes to your daily operations may be necessary to increase minimum levels of disinfectant. Signs must be updated to include additional restrictions for persons wearing diapers, those with a communicable disease, and a recommendation that no one should swim alone. General Use Pools, especially private clubs, might have changes in lifeguarding requirements.

See sections below for more details and go to the Washington State Department of Health web site for the impacts of this revision and copies of The Revised Water Recreation Administrative Code WAC 246-260. <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/watrec.htm>.

NEW Disinfection Levels

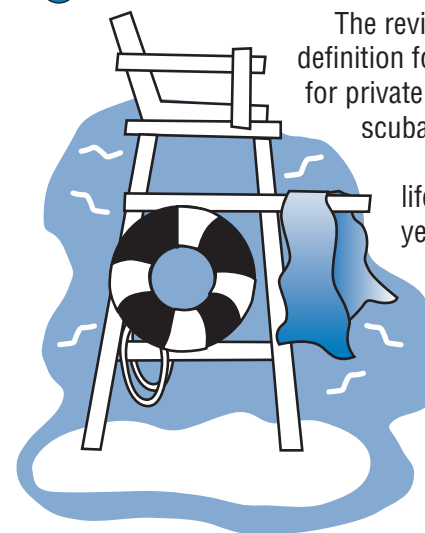
The Disinfectant Table has been simplified. There is now a single value for disinfection and the values are no longer pH dependent. Disinfectant levels have been increased to assure water quality is maintained within all levels of pH. All pools are allowed to maintain up to 10 parts per million (ppm) disinfectant.

ALL Pools, Spas, Wading Pools and recirculating Spray pools	Minimum pH 7.2	Maximum pH 8.0
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SWIMMING POOLS	MINIMUM ppm
Chlorine	1.5
Stabilized Chlorine with cyanurate compound (Includes Dichlor and Trichlor products)	2.0
Bromine	2.5
SPAS, WADING POOLS & RECIRCULATING SPRAY POOLS	MINIMUM ppm
Chlorine	3.0
Stabilized Chlorine with cyanurate compound (Includes Dichlor and Trichlor products)	3.5
Bromine	4.0

NOTE: Chlorine is measured as residual free chlorine

Lifeguards for Your Pool



The revised code has expanded the definition for substitution of lifeguards for private clubs, team training, and scuba classes.

Private clubs must provide lifeguards when persons 16 years or younger use the pool.

Shallow water lifeguards or attendants may be substituted for lifeguards in private clubs. Private clubs are excluded from the lifeguard requirement when only adults are present.

Limited use pools (pools associated with condos, apartments, hotels, mobile homes and other living units) must comply with the General Use lifeguarding requirements when organized activities are provided such as swim lessons, or when the pool is used by people not specified under the limited use category.

You will find more information on Lifeguarding requirements at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pools/>.

Failure to Maintain Proper Disinfection
Number One Violation

Public Health – Seattle & King County completed 3,743 water recreation inspections in 2004. Nine percent of all routine inspections had violations resulting in closure of the facility.

Help keep our pools and spas safe and healthy by avoiding the ten most common Pools/Spas Violations listed in the chart.

Ten Most Common Pools/Spas Violations King County – 2004	
Failure to maintain proper disinfection level.	24%
Failure to maintain barriers (gates, fences, walls and doors accessing pool enclosure) or improperly maintained.	10%
Failure to maintain pH within 7.2 – 8.0 range.	9%
Failure to maintain monitoring and record keeping as required.	7%
Failure to maintain first aid kit and/or blankets.	7%
Failure to maintain inlet and overflow system as required.	6%
Failure to maintain required signage and /or conspicuously posted signage.	6%
Failure to maintain stairs with visible, contrasting colored non-slip tread, and/or failure to maintain secure handrails.	6%
Failure to maintain maximum pool/spa temperature at 104° F or below.	4%
Failure to maintain or provide phone and/or emergency response equipment.	4%

Prevent Pool Contamination

All users must shower with soap before entering the pool and must wash their hands after using the restroom. Persons wearing diapers need to have tight fitting protective coverings when swimming, diapers should be changed in designated diaper changing areas away from the pool, and hands should be washed after changing diapers. Crowded conditions, poor water quality, unusual weather, mechanical and human failure load your pool with potential contamination. Never allow swimmers with diarrhea, open infectious sores, or other diseases that may transfer in the water.

When you suspect your pool has been contaminated, call technical support or your district office listed in the Who's Who on page 4. Public Health provides up-to-date guidance for eliminating possible bacteria, viruses, parasites, and allergens from your pool.

Most waterborne illnesses are preventable with the minimum levels of disinfectant combined with balanced chemistry in the pool. Fecal contamination requires more aggressive corrective action. Have a risk management plan for fecal accidents as well as recreational water illness outbreaks. When the pool is the source of an outbreak, support your Public Health inspectors in the investigation. These investigations often reveal how or why illness was transmitted. This information leads to better illness prevention strategies that can help everyone.

For detailed disinfection guidelines download the Environmental Health Directors Guidance Document for Pool Contamination Guidelines <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pools>.

Pump and Main Drain Safety
Shut off Switches and Alarms
will be Required by June 1, 2008

Owners will be required to install emergency equipment to shut off all pumps connected to the recirculation lines in existing pools with single main drains. Washington State Department of Health is developing a guidance document to help owners and designers with options for alternatives to the emergency shutoff switch and audible alarm. Owners must complete this upgrade to safer pools by June 1, 2008.

Convert Single Suction Drains to Dual at Renovation

Major renovation at the main drain will require conversion to dual main drains. The addition of a second main drain with an approved anti-hair entrapment cover significantly reduces the risk of evisceration/disembowelment, body suction entrapment, limb entrapment and hair entanglement. Renovation will require plan review; please contact Public Health for plan review information or find it on line at <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pools>.

Maintenance at the Main Drain

When your main drain cover is loose, cracked, or missing, close the pool immediately. Drownings have occurred when the grates were cracked, loose or completely removed. Your maintenance plan should include methods to assure the main drain is securely attached, free of cracks, and in good repair. Use your reach pole to check the cover on the main drain routinely to be sure that it's securely fastened. Maintenance plans should include close visual observation of the condition of the main drain cover to ensure it is not loose or only partially secured. Without the cover, the strong suction at the drain piping can hold a swimmer on the bottom of the pool.

Your daily operational check list should include checking the main drain, water quality testing, verifying gates and doors are self closing - self latching, assuring the decks are free of trip hazards, fences are sound and other safety features that may apply to your pool are operational.

Plan Review Required for Changes, Additions and Renovations

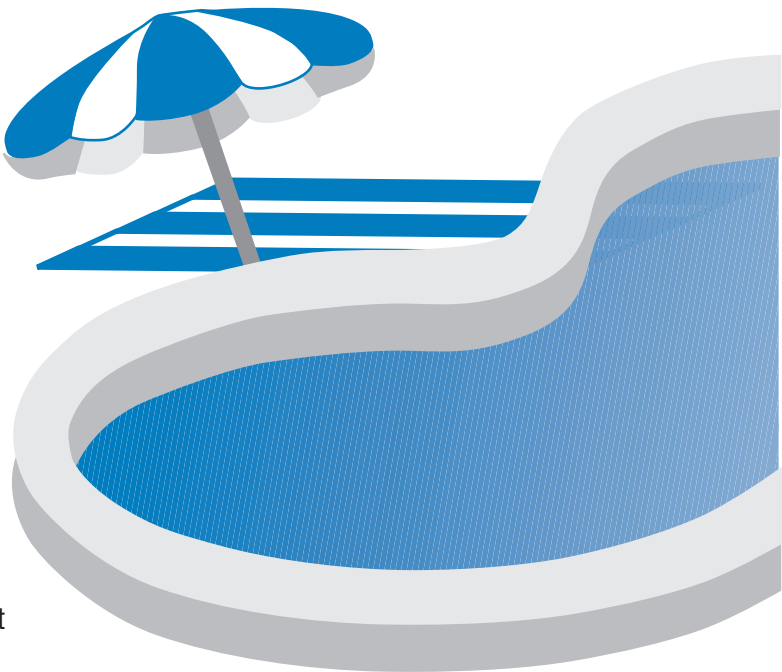
Plan review is required for all new installations and most renovations, changes and additions. Renovations include changes in pool structure, mechanical equipment, piping, barriers, walking surfaces, steps, slides, diving boards, etc. Plan guides for pools, spas, wading and spray pools are available at the Public Health – Seattle and King County web site <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pools/> and from District Offices and plan reviewers listed in the “Who's Who” on page 4.

Barriers Must Comply with Revised Code by June 1, 2008

- Existing barriers, including fences, windows, doors, gates and walls surrounding the pool enclosure must comply with the revised code by June 1, 2008.
- Barriers built prior to 2004 allowed latch height at 54 inches. These facilities must raise latch height to 60 inches or have continuous locking latches. Latch corrections must be completed by June 1, 2008.
- Pools built before 1990 were previously grandfathered allowing continued operation with fences at 48 inches high. All pools must replace or retrofit existing fences less than 5 feet for limited use pools and 6 feet for general use pools by June 1, 2008.
- Pools built before 1990 allowed 6 inch openings in the vertical spacing of fences. All fences, gates, doors and windows entering into the pool enclosure should not allow a 4 inch sphere to pass through. Corrections must be completed by June 1, 2008.
- All doors and gates entering into pool enclosures must be self-closing and self-latching. Corrections for self-closing and latching mechanisms should be immediate.
- Consult your local building department to assure raising latch height to 60 inches does not create conflicts with Building Codes or the American Disabilities Act.

What is the Safety Issue?

Closing the gaps and raising the height of barriers will immediately decrease access for young children. Studies of human measurement have found that 50% of the children aged 4½ to 5½ can enter the pool when the latch height is 54 inches. Raising the latch height to 60 inches raises that age to 6½ to 7½. Failure to maintain required barriers is cited in 10% of the routine inspections. This is a critical safety violation with a huge risk for accidental drowning. Please complete the following checklist to make sure your pool or spa is childproof. Schedule the necessary corrections as soon as possible.



Childproof Checklist

- Is the latching mechanism 60 inches or higher on the gate or door? When the latch is 60 inches or higher, the gate or door needs to be self-closing and self-latching. Check regularly to ensure the mechanism is still working.
- Is the latching mechanism lower than 60 inches? If so, the gate or door must be continuously locked from outside access, and only opened by a key or other access controlled system and be self-closing and self-latching. Check regularly to assure your doors and locks are still working properly.
- Pools constructed before October 31, 2004 may maintain latches at 54 inches with a compliance correction scheduled completion date no later than June 1, 2008.
- Do you have a fence surrounding your outside pool? Does your fence have any gaps greater than four inches or structures leaning against it that would allow a child to climb through or over the top? Fences and gates require maintenance to assure an effective barrier preventing easy access to your pool by children. The hazard is real. Ninety-five percent of children under nine are able to get through a six inch opening.
- Does your gate close automatically behind you when you walk into the pool area? If you have a pool without a lifeguard, the gates and doors need to close and latch or lock by themselves, the gates must automatically “self-close” and “self-latch” without assistance.